

Holgate Street Pole Yard

City of Seattle Response to Request for Information Regarding the Harbor Island Superfund Site, East Waterway Operating Unit

D. QUESTIONS

1. Identification and Association with Subject Property

- a. Provide the full legal name and mailing address of Respondent.

City of Seattle
c/o William Devereaux
Director, Environmental Management and Real Estate Division
Seattle City Light
700 5th Avenue, Suite 3316
P.O. Box 34023
Seattle, Washington 98124-4023

- b. For each person answering these questions on behalf of Respondent, provide that person's:
- i. full name;
 - ii. title;
 - iii. business address and electronic mail address; and
 - iv. business telephone number.

Jo Bruskotter
Senior Paralegal, Environmental Section
Seattle City Attorney's Office
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2050
Seattle, WA 98104-7095
Jo.bruskotter@seattle.gvo
206-233-2152

- c. If Respondent wishes to designate an individual for receiving future correspondence from the EPA concerning the EWOU, please indicate so here by providing that individual's name, mailing address, electronic mail address, telephone number, and fax number.

Pete Rude
Senior Sediment Scientist
Seattle Public Utilities
700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98104-4018
pete.rude@seattle.gov
206-733-9179
Fax: 206-684-4631

- d. Provide the address of each Subject Property, the time period when Respondent held any ownership or other interest in the Subject Property, and the type of interest held.

The former Holgate Street Pole Yard was located on a street end at the junction of Holgate Street, South Alaskan Way, and East Marginal Way. The City operated the pole yard from an unknown date to 1945.

- e. Identify all materials used or created by Respondent's activities or operations at each Subject Property.

The City stored and possibly treated utility poles at the Holgate Street Pole Yard. See the responses to 1.h and 1.m.

- f. Provide copies of all documents regarding the ownership or environmental conditions of the Subject Property, including, but not limited to, deeds, sales contracts, leases, surveys, investigations, sampling, reports, blueprints, "as-builts," and photographs.

Responsive documents have been produced and indexed.

- g. Provide information on the condition of the Subject Property when purchased or at the beginning of the relevant time period; describe the source, volume, and content of any fill used during the construction of the buildings, including waterside structures such as seawalls, wharves, docks, or marine ways.

No records regarding acquisition or development of the pole yard have been located. The property was described in 1945 correspondence as a street end,¹ so it is likely that it was undeveloped prior to being used for pole storage. A 1945 document describes the site as "four acres of open ground area."²

- h. Describe the activities or operations at each Subject Property including:
i. the date such activities or operations commenced and concluded; and

See the response to h.ii.

- ii. the types of activities or operations performed at each Subject Property, including but not limited to the use, storage, or disposal of any materials in an outdoor location.

¹ SEA EWW_00008630, at SEA EWW_00008642 (13), Correspondence re lease of pole yard, 1945; SEA EWW_00009825, at SEA EWW_00009826 (2), CF 185481, 1945.

² SEA EWW_00009654, at SEA EWW_00009655 (2), Correspondence re lease of pole yard, 1945.

From at least 1936 to 1945 Seattle City Light operated a pole storage yard at the site.³ In 1945, the pole yard was moved to another location to accommodate use of the site by the U.S. Army for storage.⁴ See the response to 1.q.

Available records state only that utility poles were stored on the property and discuss no other operations, but it is possible that poles were processed at the yard as well.⁵ As described in an undated Seattle City Light publication, processing poles consisted of removing knots and shaving the poles smooth, then perforating the pole with slits.⁶ Boiling creosote was poured into the slits to seal the pole.⁷

Poles were moved on and off the site with pole trucks and winches.⁸

- i. Describe each release of materials at or from a Subject Property, including the type and quantity of the materials, the location of the release, the impacted media, and the response.

The City has no record of spills or releases at the site during the relevant time period.

- j. Provide information on past dredging or future planned dredging in the EWOU.

The City did not dredge or arrange to have dredged any part of the East Waterway in association with the Holgate Street Pole Yard.

- k. Provide all documents pertaining to the use, storage, or disposal of any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the Subject Property.

The City has found no records pertaining to hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants at the site, but creosote may have been used to process utility poles.

- l. Provide all information on electrical equipment used at the Subject Property, including transformers or other electrical equipment that may have contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The City has no information or documents related to electrical equipment on or at the property.

- m. Provide information on the type(s) of oils or fluids used for lubrication of machinery or other industrial purposes, and any other chemicals or products

³ SEA EWW_00009827, 1936 base map showing pole yard; SEA EWW_00009654, at SEA EWW_00009655 (2), Correspondence re lease of pole yard, 1945.

⁴ SEA EWW_00009639, at SEA EWW_00009642 (4), Certificate as to Vacation of Property, 1945.

⁵ SEA EWW_00009654, at SEA EWW_00009655 (2), Correspondence re lease of pole yard, 1945; SEA EWW_00009639, at SEA EWW_00009642 (4), Certificate as to Vacation of Property, 1945.

⁶ SEA EWW_00009833, at SEA EWW_00009834 (2), Pole construction pamphlet, not dated.

⁷ SEA EWW_00009833, at SEA EWW_00009834 (2), Pole construction pamphlet, not dated.

⁸ SEA EWW_00009833, at SEA EWW_00009834 (2), Pole construction pamphlet, not dated.

which are or may contain hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants which are or were used at the Subject Property.

Creosote may have been used to seal utility poles.⁹

- n. Provide any Subject Property drainage descriptions plans or maps that include information about storm drainage which includes, but is not limited to, above or below surface piping, ditches, catch basins, manholes, and treatment/detention or related structures including outfalls. If available, also include information about connections to each sanitary sewer.

No documents regarding engineered drainage or sewer connections at the pole yard have been located. Stormwater likely permeated a soil or soil and gravel surface at the site.

- o. With respect to past activities or operations at each Subject Property, provide copies of any stormwater or drainage studies, including data from sampling, conducted at the Subject Property. Also provide copies of any Stormwater Pollution Prevention or Maintenance Plans or Spill Plans that may have been developed for different operations during Respondent's occupation of the Subject Property.

No documents responsive to this question have been located.

- p. Describe each underground storage tank present at any time on a Subject Property, including but not limited to the size and location of the tank, the materials stored in the tank, the time period of use, whether any material leaked from the tank, the type and quantity of leaked material, and the response to the leaked material.

The City has no record of USTs at the site during the relevant time period. The property is currently part of the Port of Seattle's Terminal 30, which is listed in the Department of Ecology UST database, but it is unlikely that any storage tanks are or were located on the pole yard property.

- q. Provide the names and last known address of any tenants or lessees, the dates of their tenancy and a description of the activities or operations they conducted while present at the Subject Property.

The United States Army leased the property for several months in 1945 but terminated the lease after World War II ended.¹⁰ The Army intended to use the site for storage but did not occupy the site before the lease was cancelled.¹¹

⁹ SEA EWW_00009833, at SEA EWW_00009834 (2), Pole construction pamphlet, not dated.

¹⁰ SEA EWW_00008630, at SEA EWW_00008672-674 (43-45), Correspondence re lease cancellation, 1945.

¹¹ SEA EWW_00008630, at SEA EWW_00008672 (43), Correspondence re lease cancellation, 1945.

The City is not able to locate anyone with knowledge of the Army's tenancy.

- r. If Respondent, its parent corporation, subsidiaries or other related or associated companies have filed for bankruptcy, provide:
 - i. the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in which the petition was filed;
 - ii. the docket numbers of such petition;
 - iii. the date the bankruptcy petition was filed;
 - iv. whether the petition is under Chapter 7 (liquidation), Chapter 11 (reorganization), or other provision; and
 - v. a description of the current status of the petition.

The Respondent, City of Seattle, has not filed for Bankruptcy.

- s. If not already provided, identify and provide a last known address or phone number for all persons, including Respondent's current and former employees or agents, other than attorneys, who have knowledge or information about the generation, use, purchase, storage, disposal, placement, or other handling of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, or transportation of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to or from, the Subject Property.

All information provided in this response was derived from documents. The Holgate Street Pole Yard ceased operation over 80 years ago; thus, the City is not able to locate witnesses with personal knowledge of the facility.